

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018158

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CI

SUBJECT: FATHER POBLETE

DURING U.S. VISIT FATHER RENATO POBLETE, CHILEAN
JESUIT ADVISER TO CARDINAL SILVA, SPOKE WITH WIDE RANGE
OF CONTACTS INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, SENATOR
KENNEDY, CONGRESSMAN FRASER, AND U.N. UNDER SECRETARY
GENERAL BRAD MORSE. POBLETE'S POINTS TO ROGERS INCLUDED
FOLLOWING.

1. GOC MAY WELL ANNOUNCE MORE LIBERAL DOMESTIC
POLICY SHORTLY, LIFTING STATE OF SIEGE AND RELEASING MANY
PRISONERS. SUCH MEASURES BADLY NEEDED. CHILE'S U.N.
AMBASSADOR TOLD POBLETE HE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO
ANNOUNCE SUCH POLICY AFTER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 018158

POBLETE URGED NEW POLICY START BEFORE, SO IT WOULD NOT

RPT NOT SEEM GOC YIELDED TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE. POBLETE TOLD ROGERS HE HOPED SECRETARY WOULD NOT RPT NOT VISIT CHILE UNTIL MORE LIBERAL POLICY ANNOUNCED AND IMPLEMENTATION UNDER WAY, BUT THAT IF GOC DOES LIBERALIZE SIGNIFICANTLY IT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED WITH PRAISE. ROGERS REPLIED WE MIGHT ALSO BE COMPLIMENTARY IN THAT EVENT BUT WOULD FIRST WISH TO BE SURE NEW POLICY GENUINE. POBLETE SAID CARDINAL AGREED. ROGERS ADDED WE MIGHT LOOK CAREFULLY AT ANY RELEVANT STATEMENT BY CARDINAL BEFORE WE COMMENTED.

2. POBLETE MOST GRATEFUL FOR USG HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORT AND SAID CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AGAINST CHILE HAD APPLIED SALUTARY PRESSURE ON JUNTA.

3. USG SHOULD IMPLEMENT LIBERAL PAROLE PROGRAM FOR CHILEAN DETAINEES AND REFUGEES IN CHILE AND PERU. USG ADMISSION OF SO FEW NON-CHILEAN REFUGEES LAST YEAR COMPARED POORLY WITH RECORD OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. DANGER OF CHILE-PERU WAR GROWING. BOTH GOVERNMENTS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER. USG INFLUENCE NEEDED TO COOL THINGS OFF. INGERSOLL

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